

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NOUAKC 00645 111013Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 AID-05 /039 W

-----071619 121504Z /42

R 101732Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9108

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NOUAKCHOTT 645

E.O. 11652: N/A - DECON UPON RECEIPT

TAGS: ELAB, EAID, MR

SUBJECT: NOUAKCHOTT TRADE UNION MEETING AND AALC

REF: (A) STATE 58282, (B) AF/I SLEZAK 2/7/78 MEMO

1. AS MISSION LABOR REPORTING OFFICER DISCUSSED WITH AF REP SELZAK AT SEPT 1977 TUNIS LABOR CONFERENCE, AFRICAN/AMERICAN LABOR CENTER (AALC) PROGRAMS IN MAURITANIA ARE VERY SUCCESSFUL. UNION DES TRAVAILLEURS MAURITANIEN (UTM) OFFICIALS ARE PLEASED AND PROUD OF THEIR CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH AFL/CIO. AALC PROGRAMS HAVE CONCENTRATED ON SUPPORT OF UTM WORKER EDUCATION CENTERS AND PROGRAM. AALC HELPED FINANCE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MAIN WORKER EDUCATION CENTER IN NOUAKCHOTT AND HAS PROVIDED EXTENSIVE EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS FOR WORKER EDUCATION CENTERS THROUGHOUT MAURITANIA. CURRENT PROJECTS INCLUDE PURCHASE OF LAND ROVER FULLY EQUIPPED FOR MEDIA PRESENTATION AT WORKER EDUCATION CENTERS THROUGHOUT MAURITANIA, GIFT OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO BE DISTRIBUTED AT WORKER EDUCATION CENTER;

2. AALC RELATIONS WITH UTM ARE EXCELLENT. REGIONAL AALC REPRESENTATIVE IN DAKAR HAS MADE FREQUENT TRIPS TO MAURITANIA AND IN JULY 1977 MADE EXTENSIVE TOUR OF WORKER EDUCATION CENTERS IN MAURITANIA (WHICH HE NOTED WERE AMONG BEST HE HAD OBSERVED IN WEST AFRICA). AALC AND EMBOFFS HAVE WORKED TOGETHER CLOSELY

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AND EFFECTIVELY IN DISCUSSING WITH UTM AND GIRM OFFICIALS US GOVERNMENT POSITIONS AND PERCEPTIONS OF INTERNATIONAL LABOR ISSUES. JUDGING FROM VOTING PATTERNS AT ILO CONFERENCES, REPRESENTATIONS HAVE HAD SOME IMPACT. THROUGH EMBASSY IV GRANTS AND A WIDE VARIETY OF AID-SPONSORED PARTICIPANT TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR LABOR LEADERS, A MAJORITY OF THE PRESENT GULM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HAS TRAVELED TO THE US ON MINIMUM 30-DAY GRANTS. THE UTM IS WELL

ORGANIZED AND EFFECTIVE IN MAURITANIA. COMBINED AALC/EMBASSY EFFORTS HAVE RESULTED IN SITUATION IN WHICH UTM OFFICIALS HAVE SOUND UNDERSTANDING US LABOR AND USG POSITIONS AND FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD US.

3. ALTHOUGH MISSION LABOR REPORTING OFFICER HAS NOT RAISED WITH UTM OFFICIALS POSSIBILITY OF AF/I OFFICER SLEZAK ATTENDING MARCH

22 CONFERENCE, BELIEVE HIS PRESENCE WOULD BE WELCOME AND RPRODUCTIVE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH SAHEL LABOR LEADERS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE, MEETINGS, LABOR UNIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NOUAKC00645
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780110-1124
Format: TEL
From: NOUAKCHOTT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780382/aaaacrtb.tel
Line Count: 75
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b8a2acc9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 58282
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3373343
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NOUAKCHOTT TRADE UNION MEETING AND AALC
TAGS: ELAB, EAID, MR, AALC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b8a2acc9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014